



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia and Kings Canyon
National Parks

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Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

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Woody Smeck Chosen as Acting Superintendent of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS, CALIFORNIA-- Woody Smeck, deputy superintendent at Yosemite National Park, has been chosen to serve a 120-day assignment as acting superintendent of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks starting on April 7. Smeck has over 29 years of experience leading and managing national parks and conservation partnership programs and is a proven leader in building coalitions and teamwork to achieve strategic change.

As deputy superintendent of Yosemite National Park since April 2012, Smeck provides executive supervision of park operations and an annual budget of \$110 million for operations, maintenance, and construction programs. He oversees management of 710,000 acres of designated wilderness, 127 miles of wild and scenic rivers, 800 miles of trails, 200 miles of paved roads, and 1,133 public buildings. The park receives 4 million annual visitors and generates \$480 million in regional and national economic benefits annually.

Smeck has a strong track record as a leader. He served as superintendent of Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area from September 2001 – April 2012. In this position, he provided oversight and leadership for a recreation area consisting of 153,750 acres of mixed public open space and private lands surrounded by a metropolitan region of more than 19 million people. Annual visitation to local, state, and federal parklands within the national recreation area exceeded 35 million, making it one of the most visited recreation destinations in the country with more than 70 agencies and organizations involved in partnership efforts to preserve open space resources and provide outdoor recreation opportunities.

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In addition, Smeck served on a 120-day assignment as acting regional director for the National Capital Region for a 120-day assignment from February 2011 – June 2011. During this time, he provided leadership and executive oversight for 15 national park units and several regional programs within the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia. The region's 87,000 acres of federal parkland contain some of the most famous sites in the world, including the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, and the White House.

Smeck has been employed for over 25 years as a licensed landscape architect, working on complex land use planning, recreation, and open space protection issues in southern California. He graduated with a graduate degree in environmental planning from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and with an undergraduate degree in landscape architecture from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

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SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, which lie side-by-side in the southern Sierra Nevada in central California, serve as a prime example of nature's size, beauty, and diversity. With the world's largest trees (by volume), grand mountains, rugged foothills, deep canyons, vast caverns, and the highest point in the lower 48 states, it is a place that attracts 1.6 million visitors a year from across the U.S. and the world. Visitor activities vary by season and elevation. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/seki or call 559-565-3341.